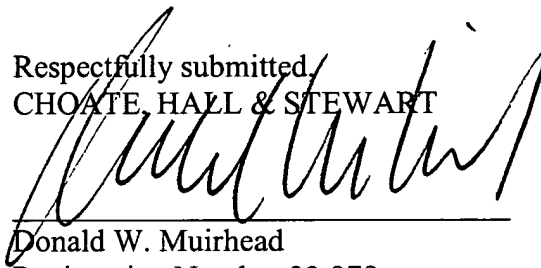


### REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 18 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims are supported by the originally-filed specification.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-248-4038.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHOATE, HALL & STEWART



Donald W. Muirhead  
Registration Number 33,978

Date: October 21, 2004

Patent Group  
Choate, Hall & Stewart  
53 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
(617) 248-5000